AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of disambiguating database search results within a speech interface, the method comprising:

retrieving multiple database entries responsive to a database search, wherein said retrieved database entries include a plurality of common data fields;

processing the common data fields of said retrieved database entries according to predetermined disambiguation criteria including:

excluding any data field having duplicate data items;

excluding any data field having at least one data item that is unpronounceable; and

excluding any data field having at ~~lease~~ least one data item that exceeds a predetermined maximum length;

based upon said processing, identifying from among said plurality of common data fields at least one disambiguation data field that satisfies said predetermined disambiguation criteria;

selecting one disambiguation data field based on a predetermined selection criterion when more than one disambiguation data field is identified in the identifying step; and

presenting, through the speech interface, data items corresponding to said selected disambiguation data field for each said retrieved database entry, wherein said speech interface is used in conjunction with a system in which said database search is performed, and wherein said speech interface provides users of said system with an interface for searching for information contained within a database in which said database search was conducted and for audibly receiving results of said database search.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein data item pronounceability is determined using at least one of a determination technique based upon a failed dictionary lookup with respect to a dictionary that contains pronounceable data items and a determination technique that analyzes patterns of consonant-vowel combinations occurring within the data items.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the maximum length is determined from an empirical analysis of a relative ease with which users recall audibly presented speech items.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said selecting step comprises:

selecting the disambiguation data field having data items with a smallest average length.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of disambiguating database search results within a speech interface, the method comprising:

retrieving multiple database entries responsive to a database search, wherein said retrieved database entries include a plurality of common data fields;

processing the common data fields of said retrieved database entries according to predetermined disambiguation criteria including:

excluding any data field having duplicate data items;

excluding any data field having at least one data item that is unpronounceable; and

excluding any data field having at ~~lease~~ least one data item that exceeds a predetermined maximum length;

based upon said processing, identifying from among said plurality of common data fields at least one disambiguation data field that satisfies said predetermined disambiguation criteria;

selecting one disambiguation data field based on a user input when more than one disambiguation data field is identified in the identifying step; and

presenting, through the speech interface, data items corresponding to said selected disambiguation data field for each said retrieved database entry, wherein said speech interface is used in conjunction with a system in which said database search is performed, and wherein said speech interface provides users of said system with an interface for searching for information contained within a database in which said database search was conducted and for audibly receiving results of said database search.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein data item pronounceability is determined using at least one of a determination technique based upon a failed dictionary lookup with respect to a dictionary that contains pronounceable data items and a determination technique that analyzes patterns of consonant-vowel combinations occurring within the data items.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the maximum length is determined from an empirical analysis of a relative ease with which users recall audibly presented speech items.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

receiving a user input specifying a data item associated with said selected disambiguation data field to disambiguate said retrieved database entries.

29-38. (Canceled)